(b) Government of Maharashtra has taken several steps to enhance inland fish production inlcuding stocking of fingerlings/fish seed as per optimum requirements in ponds/reservoirs. The breeding grounds in inland sector are also being protected. In marine sector, the Maharashtra State is implementing Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981 to ban fishing by mechanised fishing crafts during the monsoon season to protect and conserve the marine fisheries.

(c) and (d) The present cold storage facility is not sufficient, and Government of Maharashtra has proposed construction of three cold storage and three ice Factories.

Rate of interest Charged by **NCDC**

4132. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that NCDC charges a very high rate of interest on its lendings to the States for development of Cooperatives;

(b) what is the present rate of interest charged by NCDC; and

(c) whether NCDC is considerig to reduced its present rate of interest to make Cooperatives viable and sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Existing effective interest rates charged by NCDC are as follows:—

SI. No.	Scheme	Rate of Interest
(i)	Under-developed States and Weaker Sections programmes	14.25%
(ii)	Working capital loan upto one year and assistance for computerisation	15.00%
(iii)	Other programmes/States	15.50%

(c) Does not arise.

Peculiar Growths in Brinjal Plant

† 4133. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.